



March 24, 2017

Board of County Commissioners
Missoula County Commissioners;
Jean Curtiss, Chair;
Nicole Rowley;
David Strohmaier
200 West Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802-4292

RE: Berm stability investigation, former Smurfit-Stone site

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your letter of February 23rd about the earthen berms at the former Smurfit-Stone site (the Site) and for providing some additional information about the Site and your concerns about the stability of the berms located on the Site.

DEQ has been working with EPA to restart berm inspections at the Site in 2017. The tentative date of the first inspection is April 5th. DEQ continues to work with EPA on determining the appropriate inspection schedule during high-flow season.

DEQ also agrees that a berm investigation is required at the Site. As you note in your letter, berms are made of earthen materials salvaged from the historic 100-year floodplain, and that without knowledge of construction techniques or materials they may erode, especially not properly maintained. DEQ continues to work with EPA and PRP staff to determine the appropriate type of berm investigation that should commence in 2017.

DEQ staff also has engaged with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Dam Safety staff about the appropriate investigation requirements and will be requesting DNRC input once a draft berm investigation document is completed and ready for review. DEQ also supports EPA's efforts to share documents with the public, Trustees and stakeholders using the EPA webpage at: www.epa.gov/superfund/smurfit-stone

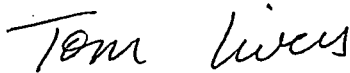
Finally, DEQ agrees that the PRP group, consisting of M2Green Redevelopment LLC, the West Rock Corporation, and International Paper should be responsible for CERCLA (Superfund) costs associated with the site.

As a state agency working to be responsive to public interest, we appreciate hearing from the constituents that are directly impacted by projects across Montana. Thank you for providing your thoughts and concerns regarding the Smurfit-Stone site.

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If you have any further questions or concerns about anything regarding the former Smurfit-Stone site please contact Keith Large, DEQ Project Manager. Keith may be reached by calling (406) 444-6569 or by emailing him at klarge@mt.gov. Keith is also available at any time to meet with you to help address any of your concerns regarding the purposed NPL site in Frenchtown.

Sincerely,



Tom Livers

Electronic cc: Joe Vranka, EPA
Sara Sparks, EPA
Amelia Piggott, EPA Legal
Jenny Chambers, DEQ
Keith Large, DEQ
Tom Stoops, DEQ
Jon Morgan, DEQ Legal
Mary Price, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Harley Harris, Montana Natural Resource Damage Program
Pat Saffel, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Peter Nielson, Missoula County

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